

Price, Richard

From: Norman Winnerman <normanw04@att.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 4:27 PM
To: pstestimony
Cc: Sen. McLachlan, Michael
Subject: Objection to Bill 1090

Members of the committee

Please count me in as an objector to the proposal to expand the number of casinos in our state. When the casino issue first came to the fore, years ago, it was a way for the Indian nations in CT to open casinos **ON THEIR RESERVATIONS** as a way of providing income and employment to their people as well as others that were hired to work at the casinos. The arrangement made with the state to participate in some of the revenue generated was helpful to us, though I wish all of the resources could have been designated for Education, but that's another story for another time.

The current state of the economy clearly indicates that the luster of the casinos and the number of customers they have generated, with the resulting negative economic impact, is closely tied to the overall state of our economy, nationally and within our state. No one should be surprised with the decline in income and workforce since the patrons of the casinos have also been hammered by the economic impact of the recent collapse of our economy. I'd be astonished if there was a steady stream of gamblers given the housing and savings losses that we've all endured. This has been a long term issue and is only now, starting to turn around.

That Massachusetts is opening a casino in Springfield should not be a reason to open up casinos all over our state. We've got enough!! If anything, we should learn from the example of the collapse of the Atlantic City casino boom and bust. If they couldn't become "Las Vegas, East", we have no shot!! It's a pipe dream if you think anything else.

New casinos should be restricted to the Indian Reservations – I see no value in allowing an expansion into every nook and cranny of our state. The infrastructure involved in terms of roads, sewer, water, etc. would be overwhelming to the state and to the communities where any new casino were to be built. We, in Danbury, for example, are hard pressed to maintain our own infrastructure. I shudder to think of the impact on our resources if we were to enter the casino business down here. Further, as one of the growing areas of the state, we've got enough to contend with to keep up with our expansion. I wouldn't believe anyone in our state government who promised to accept the responsibility for the infrastructure expense, alone. Our state budget will stretch us to the limit now. Further, the attempt to sell a half billion dollars in General Obligation Bonds, as noted in the financial pages of our newspapers, would further stretch us. I live here and I'm not sure how sound an investment that would be if I were to purchase some of those bonds!!!

Expanding casinos in Connecticut would do nothing to help all of our citizens. Kill this bill please, and move on to something of greater substance to all of us, rather than the small few big spenders who would benefit from this, if indeed, they could make it work.

Sincerely,

Norm Winnerman
51 Lake Place North
Danbury CT 06810-7233
Cell-203-512-4793
Home-203-744-1838
normanw04@att.net